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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Request for Approval of a Contract for a Preliminary Design Study of a Step and Repeat Contact Printer with [redacted] from FY-1970 R&D Funds

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1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of R&D funds for a NPIC contract. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 7.

2. Current estimates covering the production duplication of [redacted] mission material indicate that multiple copy, volume reproduction of the entire mission at the processing site will have to be somewhat curtailed because of the excessively high cost involved. The large volume of material expected from the [redacted] system, combined with the increased use of color, will prohibit the continued reproduction of 30 or more copies of the entire mission as is the present practice [redacted]. The best available estimates indicate that the number of reproduction copies produced at the processing site will be significantly reduced. Each user in the intelligence community will be provided with a limited number of copies of the [redacted] materials and they will have to make their own reproductions if additional copies are required. Since the situation regarding the total number of copies is so fluid and there are so many unknowns in the overall picture, it appears to be in the best interests of NPIC to develop a contingency plan to insure that the Center Photo Lab will be capable of responding to the anticipated photo interpretation requirements for additional copies of the [redacted] material.

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3. It is proposed that a Preliminary Design Study be initiated for a Step and Repeat Contact Printer to be used for the production of both black and white and color

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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materials. The program will investigate potential problem areas such as light sources, mensuration requirements, titling, computerized controls, X-Y measuring systems, and frame detection technology. The program will undertake trade-off studies, breadboarding, verification testing, and will provide the basic technical data required to establish a firm basis for specifying operational equipment capable of automatically printing multiple copies of pre-selected areas of interest from the input roll material. The proposed program will provide a recommended printer configuration. The technical risk involved in this program could be high if we were to proceed directly to fabrication; however, the phased approach recommended results in a minimal risk program. The proposed effort is in two parts. Phase I involves system design, breadboarding of critical elements of the system, and development of design specifications for the prototype. Phase II will encompass the fabrication of the unit.

4. [redacted] submitted an unsolicited proposal in which they describe a unique air cushion, film transport control and air gate technique developed by them. Performance of the system has been successfully proven by breadboard demonstrations; furthermore, the techniques are being incorporated into a number of contact printers, using narrow width film (35mm), for a commercial customer. The proposal recommends a nine-month effort for a Preliminary Design Study at a cost [redacted]. This development phase is necessary to determine the best method--using the above techniques--for handling wide film, and to determine the amount of computerized control required for the operation of the printer.

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5. Successful completion of this development could result in a follow-on contract for the detailed design and fabrication of a prototype Step and Repeat Printer for operational evaluation and Center use. The cost of the follow-on effort is estimated to be on the order of [redacted]

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SUBJECT: Request for Approval of a Contract for a Preliminary Design Study of a Step and Repeat Contact Printer with [REDACTED] at a Cost of [REDACTED] from FY-1970 R&D Funds

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7. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate a contract with [REDACTED] for a Preliminary Design Study for a Step and Repeat Contact Printer at a cost not to exceed [REDACTED] from FY-1970 R&D funds.

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ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:

1. Proposal
2. Form 2420

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APPROVED:

Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

22 JUN 1970

Date

Distribution:

- Copy 1 - NPIC/TSSG/SC&PS (After approval)
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